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Preliminary Report on Lumber Production for 1942 in Missouri<sup>1/</sup>

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During 1942, 2,084 active sawmills in Missouri produced 275,038,000 board feet of lumber. In addition, some 373 idle mills brought the total number in the State to 2,462. Early in the year mills were producing rapidly; but by midyear loss of labor to other industries and to the armed forces was telling and production lessened materially during the last six months.

Final production statistics which are now being compiled by the Bureau of the Census and which will be released by that agency in due time, are based on the complete coverage of the industry by mail supplemented by a Forest Service survey to get information from nonreporting mills and from those not previously on record. Nineteen-forty-two is the first year that lumber production has been obtained in the entire State in this manner.

The lumber production in Missouri is predominantly hardwood (68.5 percent) but softwoods comprise some 30.6 million feet (11.1 percent) and consist mostly of shortleaf pine, a little cypress and very minor amounts of cedar and other kinds (table 1). Among the hardwoods, oak lead with about 60 percent of the total volume. Cottonwood come next (6.4 percent), followed by sycamore (6.2 percent), elm (4.2 percent), walnut (3.3 percent) and lesser amounts of others. Small mills operated only a few days a year, farmer-owned mills and even some local custom mills sawing less than 50 M board feet per year produced 7.2 percent of the year's total, some 19.9 million board feet.

Table 1. -- Estimated lumber production in MISSOURI, by kinds  
of wood and size class of mill, in 1942

Kind of wood	Quantity produced per annum		Total	Proportion		
	by mills sawing:					
	49 M & less per annum	50 M & over per annum				
	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	Percent		
<u>Softwoods</u>						
Cedar	81	748	329	0.3		
Cypress	175	3,031	3,206	1.2		
Fir (Douglas?)	-	3	3	-		
Pine, white	-	16	16	-		
Pine, yellow	476	26,089	26,565	9.6		
Total softwoods	732	29,887	30,619	11.1		
<u>Hardwoods</u>						
Ash	154	973	1,107	0.4		
Basswood	36	85	121	-		
Beech	2	357	859	0.3		

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary data subject to revision. Final production statistics will be released by the Bureau of the Census. Both preliminary and final statistics are the result of surveys made by the Forest Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, in co-operation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Dept. of Commerce and the Statistics Division, War Production Board. In Missouri the State Forester gave active support and assistance to the work.

Table 1 (Cont'd)

Kind of wood	Quantity produced per annum				Total	Proportion		
	by mills sawing:							
	: 49 M & less : per annum	: 50 M & over : per annum						
	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.		Percent		
Birch, river	65	500	565		0.2			
Cottonwood	1,923	15,667	17,590		6.4			
Elm	2,064	9,595	11,659		4.2			
Gum, red	115	6,448	6,563		2.4			
Hickory	387	5,027	5,414		2.0			
Maple	549	4,369	4,918		1.8			
Oak	12,377	151,587	163,964		59.7			
Sycamore	1,101	15,348	16,349		6.2			
Tupelo, black gum	139	4,263	4,407		1.6			
Walnut	246	8,699	8,945		3.3			
Yellowpoplar	4	457	461		0.2			
Other hardwoods								
Black cherry	-	16	16		-			
Box elder	-	70	70		-			
Hackberry	29	328	357		0.1			
Kentucky coffee tree	1	-	1		-			
Locust	-	85	85		-			
Mahogany	-	1	1		-			
Mulberry	-	2	2		-			
Pecan	2	27	29		-			
Willow	20	316	336		0.1			
Total hardwoods	19,194	225,225	244,419		88.9			
Total all woods	19,926	255,112	275,038		100.0			
Percent	7.2	92.8	100.0					

Compilation of production on the basis of counties brings out the importance of the forest and its industries by localities (table 2). Annual production varied from about 100,000 board feet, or less, per county to over 12,000,000 board feet per county. The eastern half of the Ozarks is the largest lumber-producing portion of the State. Over much of the remainder of the State, total production amounted to 2.5 million feet per county or less during 1942.

Table 2. -- Estimated lumber production in Missouri and number of sawmills by size class of mill, in 1942 [1]

County or counties	Production class				Total	Total	Active mills		
	Idle : 49 M or less per year		50 M or more per year				Total mills	Total mills	Mills production:
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.
Adair	4	13	299	9	875	26	1,174		22
Andrew & Holt	11	21	538	6	324	38	912		27
Atchison	2	6	140	3	268	11	408		9
Barry	2	5	148	11	1,932	18	2,070		16
Bates & Cass	7	14	214	5	433	26	647		19
Benton	3	11	218	10	2,061	24	2,279		21
Bollinger	2	10	188	35	9,562	47	9,750		45
Boone	4	8	120	5	520	17	640		13

Table 2 (Cont'd)

County or counties	Production class						Total mills	Active mills		
	Idle : 49 M or less per year		50 M or more per year		Total mills	Total production:		Mills	Mills	
	Mills	Production	Mills	Production		M ft. b.m.	No.			
No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	
Buchanan	1	9	114	3	3,622	13	3,736	12		
Butler	2	21	560	27	11,044	50	11,604	43		
Caldwell	5	10	116	3	185	18	301	13		
Callaway	10	11	170	6	335	27	555	17		
Camden	7	9	160	12	1,049	28	1,209	21		
Cape Girardeau	-	14	327	18	10,017	32	10,344	32		
Carroll & Ray	3	30	537	3	480	41	1,067	33		
Carter	2	8	230	19	4,667	29	4,397	27		
Cedar	5	8	174	9	801	22	975	17		
Chariton	5	19	313	4	539	23	852	23		
Christian	1	4	110	14	1,561	19	1,671	18		
Clark & Scotland	6	15	226	3	400	24	626	18		
Clay & Clinton	5	17	273	5	520	27	793	22		
Cole	3	10	202	7	1,005	20	1,205	17		
Cooper	4	16	270	5	806	25	1,076	21		
Crawford	5	6	85	17	5,568	28	4,053	23		
Dade	2	3	70	4	620	9	690	7		
Dallas	2	3	75	15	2,100	18	2,173	16		
Daviess	8	5	120	6	809	19	929	11		
DeKalb	3	6	121	3	400	12	521	9		
Dent	2	5	129	11	5,197	13	5,326	16		
Douglas	3	9	175	30	6,505	42	6,680	39		
Dunklin & Femiscot	1	9	180	17	3,860	27	4,040	26		
Franklin	8	23	476	14	2,316	45	2,792	37		
Gasconade	6	20	314	3	369	34	1,183	23		
Gentry & Worth	7	12	233	8	852	27	1,085	20		
Greene & Lawrence	4	5	134	10	1,401	19	1,595	15		
Grundy	2	11	219	3	359	16	573	14		
Harrison	3	14	265	4	291	21	556	18		
Henry	4	10	187	5	1,919	19	2,106	15		
Hickory	3	8	155	5	310	16	465	13		
Howard	1	3	75	3	1,169	7	1,244	6		
Howell	1	12	265	19	6,334	32	6,649	31		
Iron	3	15	361	24	5,153	42	5,504	39		
Jackson	2	3	17	3	3,488	8	3,505	6		
Jasper	1	4	81	7	1,588	12	1,669	11		
Jefferson	2	6	54	7	1,840	15	1,894	13		
Johnson	4	7	165	4	537	15	702	11		
Knox	5	14	281	3	375	22	656	17		
Laclede	5	13	194	14	2,565	32	2,759	27		
Lafayette	5	8	80	7	584	20	664	15		
Lewis	5	10	217	5	482	20	699	15		
Lincoln	6	10	207	6	1,775	22	1,982	16		
Linn	5	29	537	3	191	37	728	32		
Livingston	3	11	257	9	1,270	23	1,527	20		
McDonald	7	11	258	23	3,539	41	3,797	34		
Macon	3	15	244	7	600	25	844	22		
Madison	6	8	163	24	5,092	33	5,255	32		

Table 2 (Cont'd)

County or counties	Production class						Total mills	Active mills			
	Idle : 49 M or less per year			50 M or more per year				Total mills	Total	Mills	
	Mills	Mills	Production	Mills	Production	: production:					
No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.		
Maries	-	10	220	7	693	17	913	17			
Marion	7	6	87	6	2,196	19	2,283	12			
Miller	5	16	241	5	655	26	896	21			
Mississippi	-	3	98	10	4,835	13	4,933	13			
Moniteau	2	3	55	6	918	11	973	9			
Monroe	5	15	262	5	369	25	631	20			
Montgomery	2	9	170	7	757	18	927	16			
Morgan	2	10	140	17	2,346	29	2,436	27			
New Madrid	3	5	145	7	5,583	15	5,728	12			
Newton	2	5	145	8	1,106	15	1,251	13			
Nodaway	4	3	41	3	322	10	363	6			
Osage	5	11	295	13	2,099	29	2,394	24			
Ozark	6	10	220	20	5,890	36	6,110	30			
Perry	1	10	177	17	3,570	28	3,747	27			
Pettis	1	5	109	3	655	9	764	8			
Phelps	3	10	94	10	2,722	23	2,816	20			
Platte	1	8	107	-	-	9	107	8			
Polk	2	5	57	5	559	12	616	10			
Pulaski	2	10	225	3	595	15	320	13			
Putnam & Mercer	5	17	333	3	290	25	623	20			
Ralls	11	12	236	6	1,117	29	1,353	18			
Randolph, Audrain & Pike	1	7	119	5	456	13	575	12			
Reynolds	10	7	201	49	12,026	66	12,227	56			
Ripley	2	11	276	32	3,165	45	8,441	43			
St. Charles	2	4	109	7	980	13	1,089	11			
St. Clair	3	8	145	5	770	16	915	13			
St. Francois	3	4	30	11	2,056	13	2,136	15			
St. Genevieve	8	20	372	14	2,118	42	2,490	34			
St. Louis & St. Louis (city)	-	4	105	3	2,632	7	2,737	7			
Saline	4	8	139	9	1,005	21	1,144	17			
Schuylerville	6	4	100	3	166	13	266	7			
Scott	1	4	45	6	2,777	11	2,822	10			
Shannon & Oregon	3	6	109	34	15,901	43	16,010	40			
Shelby	4	10	180	7	417	21	597	17			
Stoddard	6	5	122	24	9,602	35	9,724	29			
Stone	2	6	133	8	1,500	16	1,633	14			
Sullivan	2	13	252	4	340	19	592	17			
Taney	3	15	302	6	1,172	24	1,474	21			
Texas	7	24	565	39	10,093	70	10,653	63			
Vernon & Barton	4	7	68	8	1,305	19	1,373	15			
Warren	2	4	116	4	411	10	527	8			
Washington	1	7	183	32	6,596	40	6,779	39			
Wayne	5	14	408	40	10,406	59	10,314	54			
Webster	1	6	105	10	3,152	17	3,257	16			
Wright	3	7	106	10	2,277	20	2,333	17			
Total	378	1,005	19,926	1,079	255,112	2,462	275,038	2,084			

1/ Several counties have been combined to avoid disclosing data for individual establishments.

Further analysis of the 255 million board feet sawed by mills producing 50 M per annum or more shows some interesting details (table 3). About half of the State's production originated in sawmills producing from 50 to 499 M board feet during the year. About 20 percent originated in mills which sawed from 500 to 999 M board feet, and 22 percent came from the largest producers, 1 million feet or more. Small mills produced the remaining 7.2 percent.

Table 3. -- Number and estimated production of sawmills  
by production classes, in MISSOURI, in 1942

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Sawmills		Lumber production	
	No.	M feet b.m.		Percent
1 - 49	1,005	19,926		7.2
50 - 499	958	139,881		50.9
500 - 999	85	54,024		19.6
1000 - 4999	36	61,207		22.3
Total	2,084	275,038		100.0

For such a sizeable State production, operators reported holding rather low stocks on hand. Small mills held very little. A material decline in stocks on hand was reported by only one group, producers of 50-499 M per annum, who reported 5.5 million on January 1 and only 3.1 million feet on December 31, 1942. The next larger producing group gained from 0.3 to 1.0 million feet, and the producers of 1.0 million or more held steady (table 4). Taken as a whole stocks were reported to have declined from 14.3 million to 12.5 million feet, at the sawmills. The balance of the State's yearly output, apparently, moved rapidly to remanufacturers, to ultimate consumers, or into regular channels of distribution.

Table 4. -- Number and estimated production of mills reporting  
stocks on January 1 and December 31, 1942,  
and the amount of those stocks

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Mills reporting		Stocks on hand, 1942	
	stocks on hand		January 1	
	Mills	Production	January 1	December 31
	No.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.
1 - 49	28 <sup>1/</sup>	553 <sup>1/</sup>	75	111
50 - 499	102	21,684	5,526	3,106
500 - 999	21	13,622	305	1,032
1000 - 4999	18	37,320	8,443	8,309
Total	169	73,179	14,349	12,558

<sup>1/</sup> Two mills were idle ones.

